

even temperament, and in-depth experience make Marty one of the most valuable officers of the Senate, and I want to thank him and recognize him for that. In the Secretary's office, Marty is ably assisted by Sue Spatz and Nancy Iacomini.

Day-to-day management of the floor operation is in the capable and energetic hands of Lula Davis, the Assistant Secretary to the Minority. Lula's ability to juggle multiple tasks—from negotiations over bills that we seek to clear by unanimous consent, to advising Senators and staff on legislative strategy, to acting as informal fashion adviser to many of my colleagues—demonstrates her tireless dedication to making things work around here. Marty and Lula are joined by Democratic Floor Assistants, Gary Myrick and Paul Brown, who have done a wonderful job helping to move legislation and protect Senators' interests. I am profoundly grateful for their dedication, their vigilance and their intellect. They are all ably assisted by Alice Aughttry.

Our Democratic Cloakroom staff, Paul Cloutier, Brian Griffin, Brian Erwin and Tricia Engle also provide invaluable assistance in many aspects of our Senate life. Among other things, they field countless queries about what the Senate is doing and when votes will occur, including that age-old question, "Will there be any more roll call votes tonight?". They help us stay on schedule and where we are supposed to be, all the while keeping track of the flurry of legislation that moves through here, and keeping most of us entertained. I salute them for their hard work and good humor and thank them for their assistance.

It is no exaggeration to say that our ability to navigate the complexities of Senate rules and procedures would be impossible without the assistance of our Parliamentarians. Senate Parliamentarian Bob Dove, with the outstanding assistance of Senior Assistant Parliamentarian Alan Frumin, Assistant Parliamentarian Kevin Kayes, and Parliamentary Assistant Sally Goffinet, provides essential expertise and understanding of Senate procedure.

Our growing C-SPAN audience has no doubt become familiar with the commanding voice of Legislative Clerk Scott Bates and his assistant David Tinsley; Bill Clerk Kathie Alvarez has also become a notable presence. Kathie is assisted in her duties as Bill Clerk by Mary Anne Clarkson and John Burnham. Our legislative and bill clerks deserve the thanks and respect of all Senators for their keen attention to detail and their patient professionalism.

Journal Clerk William Lackey and his assistants Patrick Keating and Scott Sanborn; Enrolling Clerk Tom Lundregan and his assistant Charlene McDevitt; Executive Clerk David Marcos, 1st Assistant Executive Clerk, Michelle Haynes and assistants Ken Dean and Terry Sauvain; Daily Digest

Editor Thomas Pellikaan, Assistant Editor Linda Sebold, and Staff Assistant Kimberly Longworth, all have my gratitude for their long hours and hard work.

I also would like to thank and commend again our official Reporters of Debates for their hard work: Chief Reporter Ronald Kavulick and Coordinator of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Eileen Milton; Morning Business Editor Lee Brown and Assistant Editor John Merlino; Expert Transcribers Angela Gallacher, Alma Kristoffersen and Bernita Parker; and the Official Reporters of Debates: Jerald Linnell, Raleigh Milton, Joel Breitner, Mary Jane McCarthy, Paul Nelson, Katie-Jane Teel, and Patrick Renzi.

I also want to thank our Senate Doorkeepers, directed by Myron Fleming and Krista Beal for the friendly and helpful attitude they bring to their jobs, often in the face of long and uncertain hours. Without their assistance and that of all of our Senate support staff, our work simply could not get done.

Last, but certainly not least, Mr. President, I want to thank my own staff—in South Dakota and in Washington—and the staff of the Democratic Leadership Committees, whom I share with Senators REID, ROCKEFELLER, and KERRY. These bright, talented people are dedicated to the effort to serve the people of South Dakota and the Nation, as well as every Democratic Senator and their staffs. They do a tremendous job, and I owe each of them a debt of gratitude.

#### THANKS TO ERSKINE BOWLES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Erskine Bowles will soon leave his post as White House Chief of Staff. He will return to his beloved North Carolina. He returns to his family; his remarkable wife, Crandall, and his exceptional children, Sam, Annie and Bill. If you know Erskine Bowles, you know that his heart has never left them through all his time in Washington. His home and his family are the pride of his life.

But as Erskine prepares to leave his post, he has a right to feel deeply proud of all he has accomplished here, as well. In so much of the progress made during President Clinton's Administration, you see the steady hand and clear vision of Erskine Bowles.

He came to the Capital little known to most of us. He had no experience in the so-called "ways" of Washington. Yet before long, the President realized Erskine was the man for the toughest job in town.

The President's confidence in this choice has been soundly ratified. Erskine leaves here a true friend to every one of us in the Democratic Caucus. He has earned the respect and admiration of Senators on both sides of the aisle. Most importantly, he has put the interests of the country ahead of the problems and politics of public life. By giving of himself—his time and his tal-

ents—millions of American families are better off today than they would have been had Erskine never come to Washington.

Jobless men and women now support growing families. Those workers have higher wages. Those wages have helped fuel a roaring economy. Those families can afford to buy their own homes. Those parents can send their children to college. Those children can share in the promising future that Erskine Bowles helped build.

Mr. President, earlier today, we passed a massive budget bill. Some have found fault with that bill in both substance and process. Some of that criticism is justified. But, I, for one, am relieved that during this unfortunate process, the country had Erskine Bowles negotiating the substance. Due in large part to Erskine Bowles, there will be 100,000 new, qualified teachers helping our children get the education they deserve.

There is another important provision in the bill worth noting. For tucked in that \$500 billion package, there is funding for the operations of the White House. And from the money dedicated to the salaries of the White House staff, Erskine Bowles takes one dollar a year.

So as we send that bill to the President for his signature, I will take pride in its support for 100,000 teachers; in its protections for our environment; and for the emergency relief it will bring to our farm families.

I will also support it for what it represents: Erskine Bowles' salary—probably the smartest single dollar this government has ever spent.

On behalf of all my colleagues, we honor the service of Erskine Bowles, and wish him and his family the very best in the good days that lie ahead.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN XAVIER BECERRA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as we bring our legislative session to an end, it is appropriate that we pay tribute to an American leader, the outgoing Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for the 105th Congress, and my friend, XAVIER BECERRA.

Our Nation is fortunate to have an actively engaged Congressional Hispanic Caucus to ensure that more Americans have the opportunity to enjoy the rewards and responsibilities of American citizenship. Their efforts have succeeded in increasing educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans, promoting fairness in our judicial system, and protecting political participation vital to our democracy. Millions of people have benefited from effective leadership provided by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and in particular, by Mr. BECERRA.

XAVIER BECERRA was first elected to represent the 30th District of California in November 1992. In 1997, Representative Becerra was elected to serve as Chairman of the Congressional